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UCSF Newsbreak

Infertile mice treated with leptin bear healthy pups

By RUTHANN RICHTER

Infertile, obese laboratory mice treated with human leptin, a hormone found to help regulate food intake, became pregnant and delivered healthy pups, according to a new study by UCSF researchers.

The study suggests that leptin may not only play a role in weight control but may also be involved in the reproductive process, says Farid F. Chehab, assistant professor of laboratory medicine and lead author of the study.

"We used these mice to show that leptin plays a different role other than just controlling food intake," Chehab says. "It's clear it's involved in reproduction. This opens up an entirely new field of investigation for this hormone."

It's not known at this point how this study might apply to human infertility. However, it does point the way to new studies of the reproductive pathway that involves leptin, Chehab says. "If we understand the deficiency in the pathway, that may help us understand sterility," he says.

Leptin was first identified in 1995 by researchers at Rockefeller University in New York. Animals that lack leptin become obese but rapidly shed fat when given continuous injections of the hormone.

In the UCSF study, which appears in the March issue of the journal Nature Genetics, Chehab and his colleagues gave leptin to seven obese mice from a mutant strain known as ob/ob. The obese females have ovaries that function when transplanted into normal

(See **MICE** *on page 3)*

Lisa Cisneros

South of the border souvenir

The UCSF library is exhibiting the Mexican folk art of the late Nelson A. Rockefeller, who started collecting the objects on his first trip to Mexico in 1933 and continued until his death in 1979. The Chancellor's Committee on Art, Honors and Recognition is pleased to present this piece and others on extended loan from the Mexican Museum in San Francisco's Fort Mason Center. The museum will move to the City's new art hub at Yerba Buena Gardens in 1998. Pictured, at left, is a hand-molded clay water basin by Teodora Blanco.

Researchers find herpes role in AIDS-related cancer

By JEFF NORRIS

UCSF scientists have found a viral culprit suspected to be responsible for the disfiguring and potentially deadly tumors that affect many persons with AIDS.

The researchers discovered a herpes virus that is implicated in the development of Kaposi's sarcoma (KS), an opportunistic stigmatizing cancer in which blood vessel cells grow out of control, usually on the skin, where they form oval-shaped reddish-purple lesions. The discovery paves the way for the development of diagnostic tests to detect infection with the herpes virus.

The UCSF scientists are the first to successfully reproduce the virus in the laboratory and to photograph it. The researchers' success now permits the testing of anti-viral drugs in infected cells and allows scientists to study the virus's life cycle and its strengths and weaknesses. Such knowledge could lead to more precisely targeted anti-viral therapies to combat KS.

While the incidence of the disease among AIDS patients has declined in recent years, it remains very common, and physicians continue to see patients with potentially life-threatening cases of KS in which the tumors attack the lungs or the gastrointestinal tract. Drug treatment for KS has been less successful than treatments for other frequently occurring complications of AIDS.

The UCSF research group that collared the virus is headed by Don Ganem, professor of medicine and microbiology at UCSF and an investigator for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The UCSF/HHMI team grew the virus in cell cultures derived not from KS, but from a different, uncommon, AIDS-related lymphoma, a cancer of the immune system's B cells.

An article presenting the research appears in the March

(See **HERPES** *on page 3)*

Social Security will survive, says US commissioner

By LISA CISNEROS

Social Security Commissioner Shirley S. Chater says the federal program signed into law 60 years ago by Franklin D. Roosevelt will survive for at least the next two generations of beneficiaries.

"There will be a Social Security program. It may be changed for those who are 30 years of age and under, but I am absolutely persuaded that the Social Security program will be there for our children and grandchildren."

Chater

But Chater conceded at a Feb. 22 event sponsored by the UCSF Emeritus Faculty Association and the UCSF Retirees Association, that the system will need to be reformed if it is to continue beyond 2030. In that year, Social Security's Board of Trustees forecasts a severe funding shortfall given the growing number of 80 million beneficiaries, almost double the number today.

And while the process to overhaul the system has already begun in Washington D.C., Chater, commissioner for the last three years, does not expect Congress to take any action to overhaul the program until after the presidential election.

In the meantime, a review committee is expected to report on its recommendations to fix the program later this month. Some of the ideas include privatizing the system, recalculating the contribution formula, extending the age of retired beneficiaries and affluency-testing.

Chater, former UCSF vice chancellor of academic affairs from 1977 to 1982, says that despite Social Security's solvency challenges of the next century, there is enough time to develop thoughtful solutions to the long-range financing issues.

(See **SOCIAL SECURITY** *on page 2)*

Studies ignite debate over sperm count

By MARIE SANCHEZ

A suspected drop in male sperm count has ignited a fierce debate between scientists and environmentalists over its cause.

Michael Castleman, public health author and journalism professor at UC Berkeley, believes the studies sound an alarm against pervasive man-made chemicals that mimic estrogen, called "xenoestrogens." In the most recent issue of Mother Jones, he argues that we have created "a massive worldwide xenoestrogenic iceberg, and all the world's animal species are on board a figurative Titanic heading right for it."

Paul Turek, assistant professor of urology at UCSF and a leading authority on male infertility, does not believe the situation is so dire. "Men today are fully the men their grandfathers were," he says. Not only does he question the controversial studies' methodology and conclusions, he says that the epidemiology of infertility is a largely understudied phenomenon in the US and elsewhere. "Until we have this accurate denominator, any numerator we select will have questionable significance," Turek says. "This is the main reason why I am not concerned that the findings about sperm quality represent a crisis. Grabbing a numerator like falling sperm quality cannot be accurately assessed at this point because it is hard to place in true and scientific perspective."

Several studies on sperm precipitated the debate. A 1992 study from the University of

(See **SPERM** *on page 7)*

UCSF will assess attitudes on diversity

This spring, faculty, staff and students at UCSF will have a chance to voice their opinions about race and gender issues on campus in the first large-scale survey of its kind.

"The main purpose of the survey is to determine the relative sense of importance that this campus feels toward maintaining diversity in the work and learning environment," says Dan Lowenstein, co-chair of the Chancellor's Steering Committee on Diversity.

Results will help guide the development of an action plan and will be used to benchmark attitudes about diverity issues so that they can be compared in the future, Lowenstein says.

The committee is finalizing the selection of a consultant who will help design the survey.

The idea to survey campus members emerged early from commitee deliberations as an essential component to help them identify specific diversity initiatives for prompt implementation.

"We have maintained an attitude of inclusion in terms of the many qualities that define diversity on our campus, such as gender, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation," Lowenstein says.

Chancellor Joseph B. Martin, who established the diversity committee last year in light of local and national debate over affirmative action, encourages the campus community to participate in the survey. He has reiterated his message that UCSF "must take a strong stand in support of diversity regardless of legal or political challenges to affirmative action."

Affirmative action received major media attention last year when Gov. Pete Wilson, led the UC Regents, along with fellow UC Regent Ward Connerly, to implement policies and practices that ban the consideration of race and gender preferences on admissions, hiring and contracting.

The issue remains on the political agenda as Connerly chairs the campaign for the passage of a statewide ballot measure known as the California Civil Rights Initiative. That measure, which may have enough signatures to qualify for the November ballot, will ask state voters to bar the State from considering race or gender in work or school programs.

Lowenstein is among those who will vote against the controversial measure. "I see the ballot measure as a deceptive mechanism to halt and actually roll back the progress that's been made with regard to true civil rights for the people in our state. We still have a long way to go, and now is not the time to destroy programs that have been so successful in creating opportunities that would otherwise not exist for people based purely on their gender or skin color."

The diversity commitee has its own Web page at itsa.ucsf.edu/diverse/.

Prop. 203 asks for just the basics

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series on what UCSF plans to do with its share of the money from Proposition 203 on the March 26 ballot. This story covers construction plans earmarked for the Medical Sciences building and the second will describe plans for Oyster Point and the campus water cooling system.

If California voters approve Prop. 203, UCSF would get $19 million from the bond measure to make basic improvements to the structure and safety of three buildings, says Stan Hunter of Campus Planning.

"These are real nuts and bolts items for keeping the lights on and the buildings operating safely and effectively," Hunter says. "We're not doing anything fancy here, but these projects will have large, immediate benefits to UCSF's academic programs."

The UC system would receive about a tenth of the $3 billion garnered from the bond measure, the first such initiative that would finance construction and renovation at both K-12 and postsecondary schools.

At UCSF, the money would be spent to upgrade the aging Medical Sciences building (MS) and Oyster Point facility in 1996-97, the first year of the bond program. A third project, to begin improvements to air circulation and cooling in the Health Sciences Instruction and Research Building, is planned for the second year of the bond issue program.

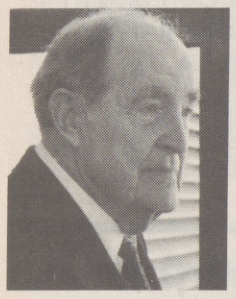
The MS renovation involves these four major components:

♦ Boosting the electrical system, which is currently operating over capacity, by 50 percent. By exceeding the electrical power limit, there is an increased risk of a power failure, Hunter says. The potential repercussions of loss of power could be severe in labs where research is dependent on light and refrigeration. Researchers could have a tough time working in the dark and keeping refrigerated experiments that have been

(See **BOND** *on page 2)*

Gazette

Campus mourns the loss of four longtime campus members



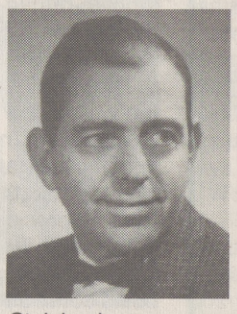
Crede

Robert H. Crede, 80: The physician for whom the Crede Ambulatory Care Center is named was a member of the UCSF faculty for more than 40 years and an alumnus of the class of 1941. When Crede graduated, he was awarded the Gold Headed Cane by his classmates as the student with the most attributes of a complete physician. He later served as president of the Gold Headed Cane Society for 22 years. From 1949, when he joined the Department of Medicine as an assistant professor, until his retirement in 1986, Crede held positions as professor of medicine and family and community medicine, as well as director of comprehensive medical clinics, assistant dean, associate dean and acting dean of the School of Medicine. Crede established the Division of Ambulatory and Community Medicine and served as its first chair from 1965 to 1980. In this capacity he was responsible for improving the teaching of ambulatory care and establishing a primary care training pathway that has served as a model for university medical centers across the nation. He also was a pioneer in postgraduate education in general internal medicine. The Ambulatory Care Center, which opened in 1972, was planned under Crede's direction and contains state-of-the-art facilities for the comprehensive medical care of patients throughout California. Memorial donations may be sent to the Robert H. Crede Student Award and Lectureship Fund, UCSF Foundation, Box 0248, San Francisco, CA 94143-0248.

Rhoda Haas Goldman, 71: The great-grandniece of Levi Strauss, Goldman was well known in San Francisco for her philanthropic work, including the more than 40 years she actively served Mount Zion. Her contribution began in 1953 when she joined the board of directors of the Women's Auxiliary. In 1975, Goldman took over as president of the Mount Zion board of directors serving in that post for three years. With few gaps, she held positions on the board from 1958 until 1994. Always instrumental in stimulating the hospital to address the needs of the elderly, Goldman founded SEALS, Seniors Eager for Active Lives, at Mount Zion in 1978. Even after Goldman left the board of directors in 1994, she was concerned with maintaining the highest quality of patient care. During her tenure as president of the board of directors, Goldman frequently visited patients to ascertain their level of satisfaction with the hospital's services. Through her leadership, Goldman was a key participant in discussions which led to the integration of Mount Zion with UCSF in 1990. Memorial donations may be sent to the UCSF/Mount Zion Institute on Aging, 3333 Geary Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94118; Congregation Emanu-El, 2 Lake St., 94159; or Stern Grove Festival Assn., 44 Page St., 94102.

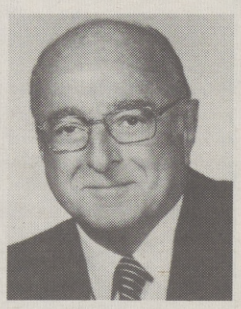
Goldman

Howard L. Steinbach, 77: A member of the faculty for 35 years, Steinbach was a professor of radiology, medicine and pediatrics. He served as acting chair and then vice chair of radiology from 1963 to 1969 and continued as a clinical professor. He also was a clinical professor emeritus of radiology at Stanford and he served as chief of radiology at French Hospital in San Francisco from 1969 to 1983. A graduate of UCLA and St. Louis University Medical School, Steinbach received his residency training in radiology at UCSF. The recipient of many honors for his pioneering research and publications in the field of radiology, Steinbach was an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists in London, England, a founder and honorary member of the International Skeletal Society and a fellow emeritus of the American College of Radiology. Memorial donations may be made to the Howard Steinbach Fellowship/UC Regents, care of the Chair's Office, Department of Radiology, UCSF, Box 0628, San Francisco, CA 94143-0628.



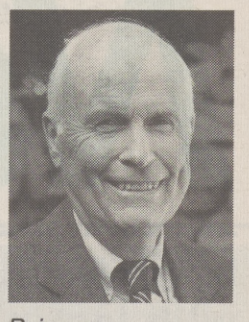
Steinbach

Eugene E. Trefethen Jr., 86: A member of the UCSF Foundation and an active fundraiser, Trefethen was an industrialist and philanthropist who helped guide the building of the Hoover Dam and the Bay Bridge. He also helped found the Walter A. Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley. Trefethen's career at Kaiser Industries spanned five decades, with his principal role being to put the plans of Henry J. Kaiser, the company's founder, into practice. He held key management positions, including president and vice chair of Kaiser Industries, as well as vice chair and executive vice president of several of its affiliated organizations. During his tenure, he played a role in the creation of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program. Throughout his career, Trefethen worked aggressively on behalf of UC Berkeley, Mills College, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and UCSF. After his retirement from Kaiser in 1979, Trefethen tended to his 600-acre Napa Valley estate, where the Trefethen Winery was founded in 1973. Memorial donations may be sent to the UCSF Foundation/ Discoveries Fund, 44 Montgomery, Suite 2200, San Francisco, CA 94104; Trefethen Unrestricted Fund, Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley Foundation, 2440 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94720; Development Office, Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, Calif 94613; and Development Office, SF Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St., San Francisco, CA 94103.



Trefethen

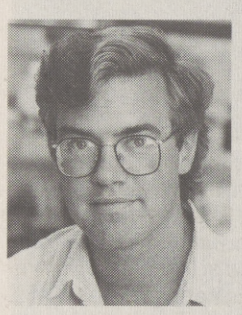
Appointments



Reimers

Neils Reimers: Appointed director, Office of Technology Management (OTM), Academic Affairs. The new OTM was created based on recommendations by the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Intellectual Property, which called for a full-service, client-oriented, campus-based office to manage intellectual property. Reimers' initial task will be to develop an agreement with the Office of the President (UCOP) regarding switching campus intellectual property management from UCOP to OTM. Reimers' goal is for OTM to help UCSF become a leader among universtities by ensuring that the fruits of campus research are made available for public use and benefit efficiently and effectively. The unrestricted income earned can be used to support further research efforts. He also will be garnering industry support for research at UCSF. Reimers is an internationally recognized authority in technology liscensing — he was the founder and director of Stanford's Office of Technology licensing from 1968 to 1991 and helped establish similar programs at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and UC Berkeley.

McCune wins Glaser award



McCune

Joseph McCrary (Mike) McCune has received one of the first five Elizabeth Glaser Scientist Awards from the Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

McCune, the inventor of the SCID-hu mouse — an important animal research model for studying HIV — is associate professor of medicine, associate investigator at the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology at SFGH and associate director of the General Clinical Research Center (GCRC), also at SFGH.

The newly established Glaser award will provide five years of support for research into pediatric AIDS in McCune's laboratory. "The PAF/Glaser money will be used to study the effects of HIV on central hematopoietic compartments, such as bone marrow and thymus," McCune says. "Also, my lab will be evaluating mechanisms of maternal-fetal transmission of HIV."

McCune is an immunologist and infectious disease specialist who is recognized internationally for his basic research on the mechanisms that govern the behavior of HIV and for his work toward better therapies for the disease.

Private Support

UCSF is pleased to acknowledge the following listing of gifts/pledges of $25,000 or more from individuals, corporations and foundations received Feb. 1-15, 1996.

$100,000 - $499,999
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The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

$25,000 - $99,999
Anonymous
Helene Fuld Health Trust
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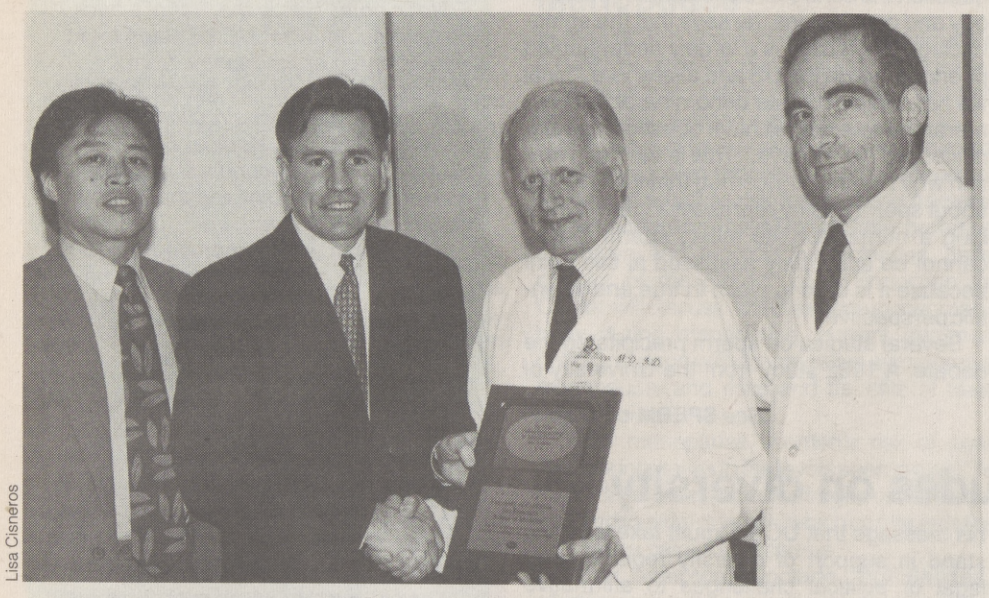

Lisa Cisneros

UCSF to host Pfizer's visiting professor

UCSF doctors Gerd J. Cropp, professor of pulmonary diseases in pediatrics, second from left, and Edward J. Goetzel, professor of immunology and allergy, accept a visiting professorship award from Pfizer representatives Felix Konat, district manager, second from right, and Steve Lem, institutional hospital representative. Pfizer Inc. provides funds to academic medical centers so that they may host professors with specialized expertise. This summer, UCSF will host Jeffrey Mark Drazen, a Harvard professor of physiology and medicine, who will help faculty researchers make the transition from a predominance of basic research to an emphasis on investigations designed to introduce and evaluate novel approaches to diagnosis and treatment of human allergic diseases and asthma. Drazen's expertise in clinically oriented and patient-based research will permit him to provide guidance of UCSF's multicentric allergy and asthma programs.

Bond *(from page 1)*

going on for years at proper temperatures during a blackout of extended duration.

♦ Adding duct capacity for fume hoods — which exhaust toxic vapors — and the capacity to add more fume hoods in the future as labs are renovated. MS has reached its limit and can no longer add fume hood ducts to the existing vertical duct risers. Also, the outdated electrical system that operates the rooftop fume-hood exhaust fans must be replaced to prevent their failure, Hunter says. In the past, UCSF has added fume hood ducts to the exterior of MS, but this bond measure would allow it to continue in a comprehensive way.

♦ Improving fire safety by installing fire doors between MS and three other buildings and at elevator lobbies to keep fire and smoke from spreading between buildings and floors. By adding these fire separation doors, fire fighters would be able to fight a fire more effectively. This project would also seal holes between floors and provide many smaller improvements to prevent the spread of smoke and fire.

♦ Renovating two old pharmacy teaching labs originally built back in the 1950s. These two labs will be renovated to be compliant with modern standards. The one on the eleventh floor will remain a chemistry-based teaching lab and the one on the ninth floor will be converted into a computer teaching lab.

Social Security *(from page 1)*

Last year, she launched a campaign to educate the public about the value of the program, which not only pays benefits to the elderly but also to survivors and disabled young workers and their families. Her visit to UCSF is part of the effort to counter the fallacies that feed the public's mistrust of government in general and Social Security in particular, she says.

"For those of you who are receiving my checks now, enjoy and know that Congress wouldn't dream of doing anything that would affect anyone who is a beneficiary today or who is about to become a beneficiary."

Chater dispels Social Security myths

♦ The program is not in a financial crisis. "The fund is extraordinarily stable and will be until the year 2030," Chater says. The program takes in $405 billion and pays out $340 billion a year to beneficiaries. The $65 billion balance goes into a trust fund that has accumulated $502 billion. The trust fund is then invested in treasury bonds, according to law.

♦ The program does not contribute to the national debt. In fact, the program is self-financing and its administration costs account for about 1 percent of all revenues. The actual federal deficit is larger than reported by the federal government because the trust fund is taken into account as a US revenue source even though by law it cannot be spent on anything but the program.

♦ The program unnecessarily pays too many wealthy seniors. Many elderly beneficiaries live on as little as $300 a month, she says. For two out of three seniors, Social Security makes up 50 percent of their income and for one in seven seniors, social security is their sole income source, Chater says.

♦ The program should not create a generational struggle between the young and old. Chater tells young wage-earners that by contributing to the program that pays their parents and grandparents, it reduces the amount of financial support they would have to give them.

UCSF Newsbreak

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Deadline for the next issue, which will cover March 23-April 5, 1996, will be on **Monday, March 11, at 11 a.m.** Please send campus and Medical Center news to Lisa Cisneros, 476-3256 or lisa_cisneros@quickmail.ucsf.edu, and calendar and gazette items to Michele Firpo, 476-3257 or michele_firpo@quickmail.ucsf.edu, all at Box 0462; fax 476-3541. Last-minute copy may be taken over the telephone by calling the above telephone numbers. The University of California is an affirmative action/ equal opportunity employer. UCSF fully ascribes to the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need to view this communication in an alternate format, please contact Lisa Cisneros at 476-3256 with your suggestions.

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Internet 101

Karen Eldred, office manager of the Public Affairs Department at UCSF, gives a group of teachers from Jefferson Elementary School in San Francisco an introductory lesson about the Internet. Teachers learned how to navigate cyberspace as they visited child-friendly web sites and their school's own home page for the first time. With the help of a volunteer grassroots initiative of parents, students, teachers, administrators, community members and technicians, Jefferson Elementary is among California's K-12 schools that will be wired to the Internet on Saturday, March 9 as part of NetDay 96.

Gene therapy trial with rats a success

By ALICE TRINKL

Using a protein normally secreted by leeches piggybacked on a special "delivery van" made from a virus, scientists have reported success in targeting a therapeutic drug to injured areas in the blood vessels of rats.

In this study, researchers have been successful in using gene transfer to target a drug of known therapeutic value to a specific site of injury in a blood vessel, rather than having to give a drug that affects the entire animal, says David Dichek, a scientist at the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease, which is affiliated with UCSF and located at SFGH.

"This shows that this useful treatment can be delivered using gene therapy directly to the local site of injury, and we can use its therapeutic properties without causing systemic toxicities in the entire animal," says Dichek, a UCSF associate professor of medicine and cardiology, and senior author of the study, which is published in the March 1996 issue of Nature Medicine.

The treatment was used to prevent the thickening of blood vessel walls in the rat following balloon injury. Similar thickening of blood vessel walls can occur in humans, following procedures such as angioplasty when a catheter is used to open up occluded blood vessels, or following vascular surgery, when grafts are used to repair major veins and arteries. The applicability of these findings in the rat to human disease will require much further study, Dichek says.

When an artery in an animal or a human is injured in such surgical procedures, the blood vessel walls tend to thicken and create a smaller opening for the passage of blood, which may, in turn, cause a heart attack, a stroke or the inability to walk due to the lack of sufficient blood to the heart, brain or legs.

"One protein that appears to be involved in the response of arteries to injury is thrombin," Dichek says. "Thrombin is one of the helpful proteins that causes clotting of blood when you have a wound. In the case of a blood vessel injury, however, thrombin may also act as a growth factor for the smooth muscle cells that line the blood vessels. In doing so, thrombin tends to create thickening of the walls, effectively narrowing the vessels."

The protein used by the researchers in the study is hirudin, which is secreted by leeches when they bite their victims. It acts as an anticoagulant so that the leech can feed freely on its victim's blood without blood clots forming, Dichek explained.

Hirudin works as a natural anticoagulant by inhibiting thrombin and, when targeted to the site of injuries in the rat blood vessels, "We found 35 percent less thickening of the artery walls which, in theory, is what leads to loss of blood flow," Dichek says.

Hirudin cannot be "sent" to the site of the blood vessel injury without having a delivery system to get it there, Dichek explained. The transport mechanism used by the scientists is a gene transfer technique wherein a vehicle, in this case an andenovirus, is utilized to carry the hirudin gene to its destination. Adenoviruses have been used in human gene therapy trials for cystic fibrosis and in several animal models of vascular gene therapy.

Hirudin, Dichek says, is potentially a useful protein for human gene therapy because the human immune system reacts very weakly against it, if at all, and it is well tolerated when given to humans in fairly high doses. However, too much hirudin can create a systemic anticoagulant effect which can be very dangerous, even leading to strokes and death, he says.

Mice *(from page 1)*

females, but have low levels of reproductive hormones in their blood and have long been recognized as infertile, Chehab says.

After the researchers gave the mice daily leptin injections between 30 and 42 days, the animals lost up to 48 percent of their body weight. Six of the slimmed-down mice then were mated and became pregnant, delivering newborn pups within the normal gestational period of 20 days. These mice continued to receive leptin injections and were mated again, all them producing another litter of pups.

One pitfall of the leptin-induced pregnancies is that the mice in the first study were unable to secrete enough milk to nurse their babies. However, in a second pregnancy cycle, some mice were able to nurse, which may mean the mice had become slightly resistant to leptin's effects, Chehab says.

Previous studies have shown that leptin acts on the hypothalamus, the region of the brain that controls feeding, body temperature, sleep and other functions. The hypothalamus is also responsible for providing the signal to the pituitary gland to secrete key reproductive hormones needed for pregnancy, Chehab says.

"Leptin sends a signal to the hypothalamus and is somehow involved in regulating food. What we're proposing here is that it may also modulate the release of reproductive hormones," he says.

The researchers now are looking at how leptin is distributed in various reproductive tissues of the body, Chehab says. Scientists elsewhere have located a receptor for leptin in the kidneys and lungs, as well as the brain. Chehab and his colleagues also have found the major form of the receptor in the ovaries. If the hormone's role in reproduction bears out, it is likely leptin will be implicated in key processes involving the breasts, testes and ovaries, he says.

Chehab's colleagues in the study are Mary E. Lim, research associate in laboratory medicine, and Ronghua Lu, assistant research biochemist.

Studies give new insight about AZT

Speakers at the National AIDS Update Conference in San Francisco are expected to reflect on the ever changing nature of HIV and AIDS related treatment and the effect the epidemic has had on health care in general.

Paul Volberding, professor of medicine and director of the UCSF AIDS Program at SFGH, will be among the experts to speak at the conference, which begins March 19. Volberding was one of the co-researchers on the AIDS study that presented new findings about the treatment of minority patients with zidovudine (AZT). Highlights from that study and that of a national study conducted by UCSF AIDS researchers are below:

Minorities and AZT

A retrospective analysis of the use of AZT in minority patients has shown that there were no significant increases in side effects reported by African American or Hispanic patients taking the drug, in comparison to side effects reported by white/non-Hispanic patients.

"The fact that we didn't see an important difference in AZT drug intolerance between white/non-Hispanics, African Americans and Hispanics seems to confirm that there is no rational reason for not treating minorities with AZT," reports Mark Jacobson, associate professor of medicine in the UCSF AIDS Program at SFGH. "This study supports the early treatment of minority patients with AZT."

Jacobson is one of the authors of the study published in the January issue of the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes and Human Retrovirology (JAIDS).

The objective of the analysis was to determine, using subjective reports from patients, whether there are any racial or ethnic differences in the tolerance of AZT. "Earlier studies reported no differences in measurable toxic effects in the blood between racial or ethnic groups," Jacobson says. "This study was based on 'softer' data, reports from the patients themselves about pain or discomfort, rather than laboratory data. We looked at patients of all three ethnic groups who reported new or worse symptoms after they began taking AZT. We saw no significant differences."

The researchers, who reviewed two of the largest AIDS-related clinical trials ever undertaken, summarized their findings with the statement, "If there is any increased risk of (AZT) intolerance in minority groups compared with white/non-Hispanics, it is not likely to be clinically important."

Pediatric HIV trial

Final results from a large study comparing three treatments for children with symptomatic HIV infection or AIDS showed that treatments with either didanosine (ddI) alone or a combination of ddI plus zidovudine (AZT) were equally effective in preventing or delaying certain clinical outcomes, such as impaired weight gain and death.

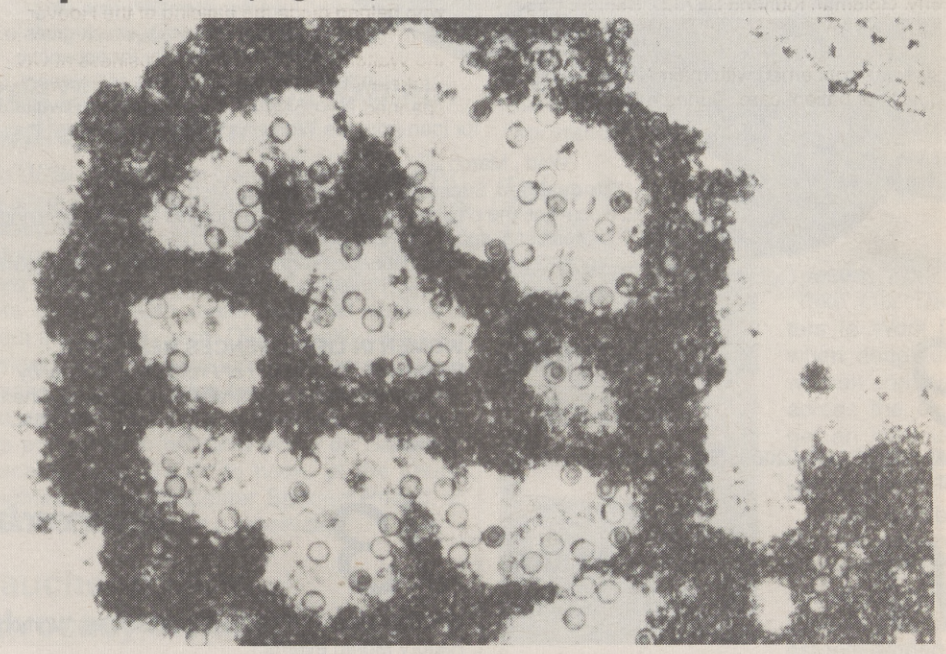
Both treatment regimens were more effective than the antiretroviral drug AZT alone as initial therapy to prevent disease progression. These findings complement results from adult studies comparing antiretrovirals given alone and in combination.

UCSF was among the 78 sites to participate in the national study conducted by the Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) and funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. "These are important findings from the largest controlled pediatric HIV trial to date," says Antony S. Fauci, director of NIAID.

Children with symptomatic HIV ages three months to 18 years, who had received little or no prior antiretroviral treatment, participated in the trial, known as ACTG 152. Neither the doctors, patients, nor the parents knew which therapy each child received.

Final analyses indicate that both ddI and the two-drug combination were equally effective in preventing or delaying certain clinical outcomes, including developmental and neurologic problems, new or recurrent opportunistic infections, malignancy and death. Fewer toxicities were seen in children receiving ddI alone, although in general, side effects such as anemia or low white blood counts were easily manageable for both AZT and ddI recipients.

Herpes *(from page 1)*



The nucleus of a cancer cell containing herpes particles

issue of Nature Medicine, along with mug shots of the viral suspect, greatly magnified through an electron microscope. The virus has been named KSHV, for Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpes virus, or human herpes virus eight, as it is the eighth herpes virus known to play a role in human illness. Common maladies caused by other herpes viruses include genital herpes, cold sores, and chicken pox.

> *"The circumstantial evidence implicating this herpes virus in Kaposi's sarcoma is strong."*
>
> — Don Ganem, research group leader

"The circumstantial evidence implicating this herpes virus in Kaposi's sarcoma is strong," Ganem says. "During the past year it has become clear that genetic fingerprints of KSHV appear in KS tumors far more often than in normal tissue, and that they also occur at a higher rate in individuals with AIDS compared to those without AIDS.

"Furthermore, AIDS patients exhibiting genetic evidence of KSHV infection are more likely to later develop KS than are those who appear uninfected by KSHV."

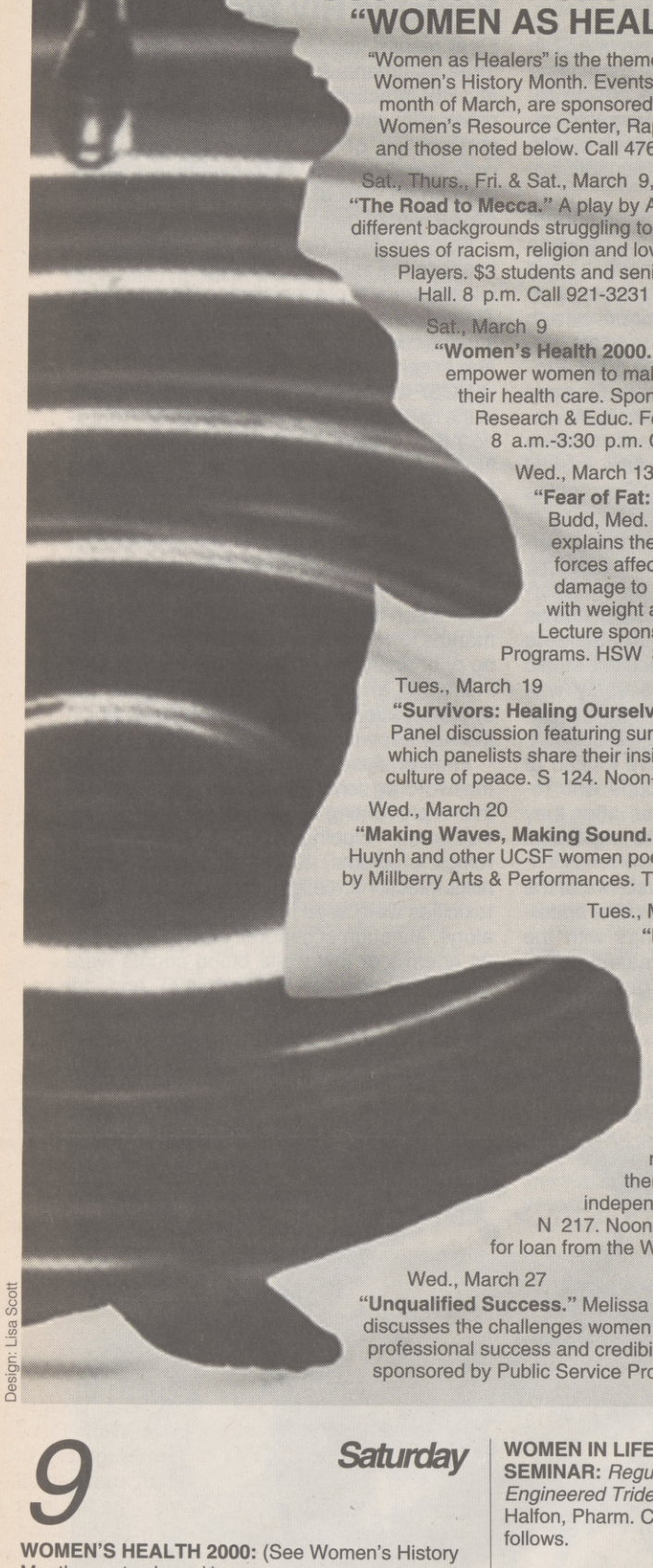
Like other herpes viruses, KSHV consists of DNA encoding more than 70 genes, all wrapped in a protective coat. The virus delivers its DNA into host cells, and can order the cellular machinery of its host to churn out the building blocks of new, self-assembling virus particles.

The development of tests to detect immune antibodies to the virus in blood, an indicator of infection, will assist in epidemiological studies to better define the role of the virus in KS and to determine whether the virus is transmitted sexually or through other means, Ganem says.

About 25 percent of homosexual men with AIDS are affected by Kaposi's sarcoma, while three percent or less of hemophiliacs with AIDS have the disease, Ganem says.

Co-authors on the study include Rolf Renne, Weidong Zhong, and Dean Kedes, all postdoctoral fellows; Brian Herndier, associate professor of pathology; Michael McGrath, associate professor of laboratory medicine, and Nancy Abbey, a research associate.

Today/Tomorrow



Design: Lisa Scott

UCSF CONTINUES TO CELEBRATE "WOMEN AS HEALERS" IN MARCH

"Women as Healers" is the theme of UCSF's celebration of 1996 Women's History Month. Events, which continue throughout the month of March, are sponsored by Women's Events Committee, Women's Resource Center, Rape Prevention Education Program and those noted below. Call 476-5222 for more information.

Sat., Thurs., Fri. & Sat., March 9, 14, 15 & 16

"The Road to Mecca." A play by Athol Fugard about two women of different backgrounds struggling to understand each other as well as issues of racism, religion and love. Presented by Parnassus Players. $3 students and seniors/$5 general public. Toland Hall. 8 p.m. Call 921-3231 for reservations.

Sat., March 9

"Women's Health 2000." Day long conference to empower women to make informed choices regarding their health care. Sponsored by UCSF & Ob/Gyn Research & Educ. Foundation. Various locations. 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Call 408-987-9089 to register.

Wed., March 13

"Fear of Fat: Factual or Fatuous?" Diane Budd, Med. & Women's Health Access, explains the truth about body fat, how social forces affect women's health and the damage to women caused by an obsession with weight and body size. Brown Bag Lecture sponsored by Public Service Programs. HSW 300. Noon-1 p.m.

Tues., March 19

"Survivors: Healing Ourselves, Healing Our Communities." Panel discussion featuring survivors of family violence during which panelists share their insights about their work to create a culture of peace. S 124. Noon-1 p.m.

Wed., March 20

"Making Waves, Making Sound." UCSF medical student Huong Huynh and other UCSF women poets read their poetry. Sponsored by Millberry Arts & Performances. Toland Hall. Noon-2 p.m.

Tues., March 26.

"Mokattam Garbage Village." Video of a play written and performed by a group of women from a small village outside Cairo, Egypt, confronts the negative impacts of female genital mutilation. Another video will be shown about how these women formed a small rug-making business, which gives them an opportunity for economic independence and higher self-esteem. N 217. Noon-1 p.m. Both videos are available for loan from the Women's Resource Center.

Wed., March 27

"Unqualified Success." Melissa Welch, Med. & Int. Med, discusses the challenges women and minorities face in achieving professional success and credibility. Brown Bag Lecture sponsored by Public Service Programs. HSW 300. Noon-1 p.m.

9 Saturday

WOMEN'S HEALTH 2000: (See Women's History Month events above.)*

11 Monday

DO FIELD RESEARCH

(See UREP item in Upcoming Events on page 5.)*

DEAN OF MEDICINE'S RESEARCH SEMINAR: *A Family of Kinases that Regulate Cell Growth & Provide a Molecular Basis for Ataxia Telangiectasis.* Bruce O. Berg, Neuro.; Michael A. Christman, Rad. Onc.; and Lewis T. "Rusty" Williams, Med. N 225. 3:30-5 p.m.

CANTONESE-LANGUAGE GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH PRESENTATION: *Caring for a Newborn Baby in Sickness & in Health.* Caroline Yong, Ped. A 860. 6:30-8 p.m. Call 476-6667 to register.*

12 Tuesday

NEW EMPLOYEE BENEFITS ORIENTATION: S 214. 8:30-10:30 a.m. Call Lenard Florendo at 476-1073 to schedule.

CANCER PATIENT CLASSES

The UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center is offering free classes for cancer patients, in addition to support groups for those interested. Call 885-3693 for class reservations, locations and more information.*

- Tues., March 12: Exercise Class for Cancer Patients. 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- Wed., March 13: Well-Being Through Nutrition for Cancer Patients. 11 a.m.-noon.

WOMEN IN LIFE SCIENCES RESEARCH SEMINAR: *Regulation of Proteolytic Activity by Engineered Tridentate Metal Binding Sites.* Sherin Halfon, Pharm. Chem. N 729. 3 p.m. Reception follows.

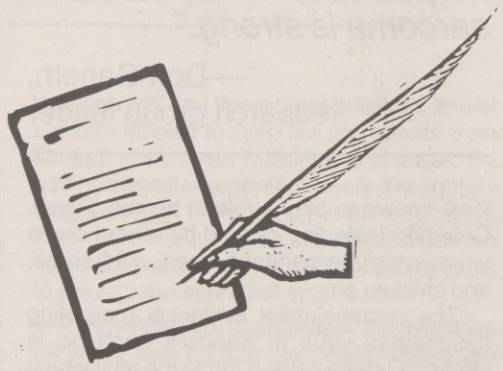
13 Wednesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES: (See Women's History Month events.)*

15 Friday

INSTITUTE OF HEALING ARTS & SCIENCES LECTURE: *Heal Thyself.* Gloria St. John, author, discusses physicians' stories about how they turned their medical practices away from Western training and more toward alternative methods. N 721. Noon. Call 330-5353.*

INSTITUTE OF HEALING ARTS & SCIENCES MEDITATION CLASS. C 417. Noon. Call 563-4459.*



POETS ON PARNASSUS

(See item in Fun Zone on page 6.)*

16 Saturday

ART & RELATIONSHIPS

Exploring Relationships & Intimacy Through the Creative Process. Sandrine Hahn, marital, family and art therapist, uses art projects and guided visualization to help participants explore, express and integrate their experience of intimacy and being in relationships. $35 plus $5 materials fee. Sponsored by Women's Resource Center. C 130. 1:30-4:30 p.m. Call 476-5222 to register.*

20 Wednesday

BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES: *The Winding Road of Alzheimer's Disease.* Robert W. Mahley, Glastone Inst. Cardiovasc. Research, presents current research on Alzheimer's disease. HSW 300. Noon-1 p.m. Call 476-4394.*

GREAT EXPECTATIONS PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH FILM SERIES: *Birth Alternatives: Adapting Home Birth Methods to Hospital Birth.* Video presentation and discussion about labor support, comfort measures and non-pharmacologic pain management. A 326. 7-8 p.m. Call 476-6667.*

21 Thursday

INSTITUTE OF HEALING ARTS & SCIENCES STRESS REDUCTION & WELL-BEING PROGRAM: Learn mindfulness meditation, meditative movement and body-mind awareness exercises. Call 441-3731 for cost, location, time and other information.*

MISSION CENTER BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES: *25 Ways to Avoid a Lawyer.* Stuart A. Bronstein, business lawyer, explains preventive maintenance that can help you avoid business problems and lawyers. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Rm. 125, Mission Center Bldg., 1855 Folsom. Noon. Call 476-4394 for information.*

GAUCHER DISEASE

Gaucher Disease: From Discovery to Cure. Kimberly Hart, Gaucher Dis. Referral Serv. & Seymour Packman, Ped. & Med. Genet., discuss the enzyme deficiency, clinical aspects, genetic basis, diagnosis and treatment of this inherited disease. Temple Emanu-El, Arguello at Lake St. 7:30 p.m. Call 476-9997.*

22 Friday

SPRING HOLIDAY

CONTINUING EDUCATION

MEDICINE

For program information, call 476-4251. To register, call 476-5808 unless otherwise noted.

Pediatric Dermatology for the Primary Care Practitioner. SF. Fri.-Sat., March 1-2.

Annual Review in Family Medicine: Controversies & Challenges in Primary Care. Hotel Nikko, SF. Wed.-Fri., March 20-22.

Asthetic Surgery of the Face. SF. Thurs.-Sat., March 21-23.

Twelfth Annual Advances in Emergency Medicine. Sheraton Palace Hotel, SF. March 27-29.

Ninth Annual Primary Care Update. Maui, Hawaii. Sun.-Fri., April 7-12.

INFORMATICS CLASSES

The UCSF Library offers the following free classes held in S 165A (EC) or 222 Library (PC). Call 476-2337 for a complete schedule.

- Mon., March 11: *Introduction to the Internet.* 10 a.m.-noon. (EC)
- Mon., March 11: *Writing for the World Wide Web: An Introduction to HTML.* 1-3 p.m. (EC)
- Tues., March 12: *Introduction to EndNote® for Macintosh.* 1-3 p.m. (EC)
- Thurs., March 14: *Advanced EndNote® for Macintosh.* 9-11 a.m. (EC)
- Fri., March 15: *Genomic & Molecular Biology Databases on the Internet.* 2-4 p.m. (EC)

Practical Dermatology Review Course: Tips on Practical Therapy & Office Techniques. SF. Sat.-Sun., April 20-21.

The General Surgery Postgraduate Course. SF. Thurs.-Sat., April 25-27.

Advances & Controversies in Clinical Pediatrics. SF. Thurs.-Sat., May 16-18.

Current Issues in Anatomic Pathology. SF. Thurs.-Sat., May 23-25.

Family Practice Board Review Course. Hotel Nikko, SF. Mon.-Thurs., July 8-11.

DENTISTRY

For information and registration, call 476-1101.

Advances in Clinical Dentistry — Symposium on New Developments in Dentistry. Moscone Center, SF. Sat., March 16.

Local Anesthesia Revisited. UCSF. Sat., April 6.

The Art of Endodontics: Concepts & Techniques for the New Millenium. UCSF. Sat., April 13.

Pharmacology for the General Dentist: Update on Drugs Used in Dentistry. UCSF. Sat., April 20.

HIV Update '96 for Dental Professionals. UCSF. Fri., April 26.

Preparation for the Dental Hygiene Licensure Examination. UCSF. Sat., April 27.

Occlusion: Current Treatment Concepts for the General Practitioner. UCSF. Sat., May 4.

Dental Laser Update Symposium: Current & Future Uses of Lasers in Dentistry. UCSF. Sat., May 11.

Comprehensive Care in General Practice — Periodontal Considerations. UCSF. Sat., May 18

DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

For more information call 476-4032.

Post-Award Management of Extramural Funds. Tues., March 12, 19. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. $60.

Supervisor's Guide to Performance Evaluation. Wed., March 13. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. $40.

General Ledger & Accounting. Thurs., March 14. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. $50.

Materiel Management Workshop — Module II. Fri., March 15. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. $50.

Writing Job Descriptions & Understanding Classification Concepts. Wed., March 20. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. $40.

Cost Transfers. Tues., March 26. 9 a.m.-noon. $40.

The UCSF Budget Process. Wed., March 27. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. $40.

Survival Skills for the Adminsitrative Assistant. Thurs., March 28, April 4, 11, 18. 8:30 a.m.-noon. $70.

Contracts & Grants Workshop. Wed., April 3. 9 a.m.-noon. $40.

Supervisor's Training Program. Tues., April 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21. 8:30 a.m.-noon. $130.

Labor Relations Supervisory Series. Wed., April 10, 17, 24. 8:30 a.m.-noon. $40.

Vendor Payments. Wed., April 17. 1-4:30 p.m. $40.

Working Smarter, Not Harder. Fri., April 19. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. $100.

COMPUTER TRAINING

Facilities Management offers the following classes for PC users. All classes held at the FM Training Room, 3130 20th St. Shuttles leave from UCSF/ Mount Zion, Parnassus & SFGH. Half-day classes cost $135, full-day $215. Call 476-6825.

Windows for Workgroups II. Tues., March 12 & Wed., March 27. 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Word for Windows I. Tues., March 12 & March 26, 1-4:30 p.m, & Thurs., March 28, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Access for Windows I. Wed., March 13. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Word for Windows II. Thurs., March 14. 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Excel for Windows II. Tues., March 19 & Thurs., March 21. 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Word for Windows II. Tues., March 19.1-4:30 p.m.

Access for Windows II. Wed., March 20. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Excel for Windows I. Tues., March 26, 8:30 a.m.-noon & Wed., March 27, 1-4:30 p.m.

RAPE PREVENTION

Classes, workshops & support groups sponsored by UCSF Rape Prevention Program. Call 476-5222.

Personal Safety, Rape & Assault Prevention Presentations. By appointment to campus departments & employees in the workplace.

Support Group for Rape Survivors. Heal from the trauma of sexual assault through open dialogue, sharing the experience and information. Ten consecutive weekly sessions. Intake interview required. Date and time to be arranged. $180.*

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March 9-22, 1996

REGULAR MEETINGS & ONGOING SUPPORT GROUPS

SATURDAYS

HEALING GARDEN WORKING DAYS: Second & fourth Sat. of month. UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Cntr. Healing Garden, 2356 Sutter. Call 885-3693.*

MONDAYS

DROP-IN SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS: Free child care and beverages provided. A 45. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 476-2417 or 476-7795.*

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN RECOVERY: For physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, PhDs and others. Anonymous, 12-step emphasis. Meets bi-monthly. Noon. Call 476-8279.

UCSF STAFF COUNCIL MEETING: Second Mon. of month. Noon-2 p.m. Call 476-5756.

FRIENDS OF LOIS AL-ANON MEETING: Closed meeting: for friends & families of alcoholics only. Conf. Rm. A, 3rd fl., MCB. Noon. Call 626-5633.*

COLORECTAL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP: Second and fourth Mon. of month. Reservations must be made at 885-7585. UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Cntr., 2356 Sutter. 6:30 p.m.*

MELANOMA SUPPORT GROUP: For patients & family members. Meets monthly on a Monday. Reservations must be made at 885-7585. UCSF/ Mount Zion Cancer Cntr., 2356 Sutter. 6:30-8:30 p.m.*

UCSF AIDS HEALTH PROJECT MEDITATION & SELF-HYPNOSIS WORKSHOP: Weekly discussion group for anyone dealing with HIV or AIDS in themselves or others. Gazebo Rm., Davies Med. Cntr. 7-9 p.m. Call 476-3902.*

TUESDAYS

SFGH CIRCLE OF SISTERS: Networking forum for black women working & studying at UCSF/ SFGH. Meets monthly. Call 476-5222.

MULTIPLE HELPERS OUTREACH NETWORK SUPPORT GROUP: For victims & survivors of violent trauma. Ages 15 & over. A 222, LPPI. 10 a.m.-noon. Help-line at 759-7923 provided daily, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.*

CAMPUS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEETING: First Tues. of the month. MU 111W. Noon-1 p.m. Call 566-8406.*

UCSF GOSPEL CHOIR REHEARSAL: Weekly rehearsals at MCB. Noon. Call 476-6761.*

PARKINSON'S DISEASE EDUCATION & SUPPORT GROUP: For people with Parkinson's & their caregivers. Third Tues. of month. Christ Church, Lutheran, 1090 Quintara (at 20th Ave.). 2-4 p.m. Call 476-9276.*

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP: For women diagnosed or being treated at UCSF/Mount Zion or Parnassus. UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Cntr., 2356 Sutter. 5:30-7 p.m. Pre-registration necessary. Call 885-3693 or 388-3742.*

NURSES' PAIN ASSOCIATION MEETING. Second Tues. of month. C 254. 5:30-7:30 p.m.*

BRAIN TUMOR SUPPORT GROUP: First Tues. of month. C 130. 7:30-9 p.m. Call 284-0208.*

WEDNESDAYS

GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL ASSOCIATION AT UCSF MEETING: Second Wed. of month. Members of the Chancellor's Committee on Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Issues attend. Call 282-9650.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS OF THOSE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS: For those interested in psychiatric disorders & treatments. Call Laura Deering-Mayclin at 476-7394.*

LATIN AMERICAN CAMPUS ASSOCIATION MEETING: Second Wed. of month. HSW 508. Noon. Call Lucia DeLeon at 476-2010.

LATIN WOMEN COALITION: For Latina faculty, staff & students. Noon-1 p.m. Call 476-7117.*

PARNASSUS AL-ANON MEETING: For friends & families of alcoholics. Observers welcome. C 417. Noon-1 p.m. Call 626-5633.*

TAI CHI CLASSES. UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Cntr. Healing Garden, 2356 Sutter. Noon. 885-3693.*

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING: Closed meeting: alcoholics only. Conf. Rm. 3, 1st fl., MCB. 12:05 p.m. Call 621-1326.*

MULTIPLE HELPERS OUTREACH NETWORK SUPPORT GROUP: For victims & survivors of violent trauma. Ages 15 & over. Two locations & times: A 222, LPPI, 1-3 p.m., and N 517, 7-10 p.m. Help-line also provided daily, 7 a.m.-10 p.m. at 759-7923.*

FRIENDS & FAMILY MEMBERS OF CANCER PATIENTS SUPPORT GROUP: First & third Wed. of month. J 221, UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Cntr., 2356 Sutter. 4:30-6 p.m. Call 885-3693.*

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP: J 221, UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Cntr., 2356 Sutter. 6:30 p.m. Call 885-3693.*

SAN FRANCISCO CITY CHORUS REHEARSAL: 7 p.m. Call 765-SONG for locations and audition information.*

EATING DISORDERS SUPPORT GROUP: Open to anyone dealing with an eating disorder in themselves or others. M 688. 7-8:30 p.m. Call 332-3425.*

CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS MEETING: 12-step program for people who have dysfunctional relationships. LPPI A119. 8-9:30 p.m. Call 432-3529.*

THURSDAYS

AWAKE MEETING: AWAKE (alert, well and keeping energetic) is a support and education group for people with sleep apnea and their families. Third Thurs. of month. Bring CPAP equipment for check-up. Call 885-7886.*

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — PATIENTS: First & third Thurs. of month. J 221, UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Cntr., 2356 Sutter. Call 885-3693.*

UCSF GOSPEL CHOIR REHEARSAL: Weekly rehearsals at Parnassus. Noon. Call 476-6761.*

HEAD & NECK CANCER SURGERY SUPPORT GROUPS: Separate groups for patients and patients' families meet simultaneously on the second and fourth Thurs. of each month. J 221, UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Cntr., 2356 Sutter. 1-2 p.m. Call 885-7623.*

PARNASSUS PLAYERS: UCSF's theater group is rehearsing "The Road to Mecca," to be part of Women's History Month. Call 476-6761 or 476-9012 (day) or 821-5701 (evening).*

ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL RESEARCH NURSES MEETING: Meets every other month, alternating between UCSF & Stanford. 5:45-7:30 p.m. Call 476-0683.*

SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN LIVING WITH LIFE-ALTERING ILLNESS: Alternate Thurs. 6-8 p.m. Call 775-2854 to pre-register.*

FRIDAYS

CIRCLE OF SISTERS: Networking forum for black women working & studying at UCSF. Second & third Fri. of month. Noon-1 p.m. C 130. Call 502-5666.

WEIGHT WATCHERS MEETING: S 159. Noon-12:45. Call 476-5193.*

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING: Closed meeting: alcoholics only. C 417. 12:10-1 p.m. Call 621-1326.*

LAKESIDE SENIOR MEDICAL CENTER CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP: First Fri. of month. $10 per meeting. 2501 Ocean Ave. at Junipero Serra. 2-4 p.m. Call 986-2305.*

For information on 12-step and support groups call the Bay Area Self-Help Center at 882-6235 or the Mental Health Association of San Francisco at 882-6230.*

THE NEXT DEADLINE

Monday, March 11, 1995 is the deadline for items to be listed in the next calendar, which covers **March 23-April 5, 1996**(two weeks). Complete information must be received in our office in writing by 11 a.m. on that Tuesday. Mail your copy to Michele Firpo at Box 0462, e-mail it to michele_firpo@quickmail.ucsf.edu, send a fax to 476-3541, bring it to UCSF/Laurel Heights, 3333 California St.,Suite 103or call 476-3257. To submit articles for Newsbreak/ Medsounds, e-mail them to Lisa Cisneros at lisa_cisneros@quickmail.ucsf.edu, fax to 476-3541 or call 476-3256.

BREAST CANCER SCREENING SCHEDULE

Women can have low-cost mammograms — X-rays to screen for breast cancer — from a mobile van that travels to convenient locations in the Bay Area.

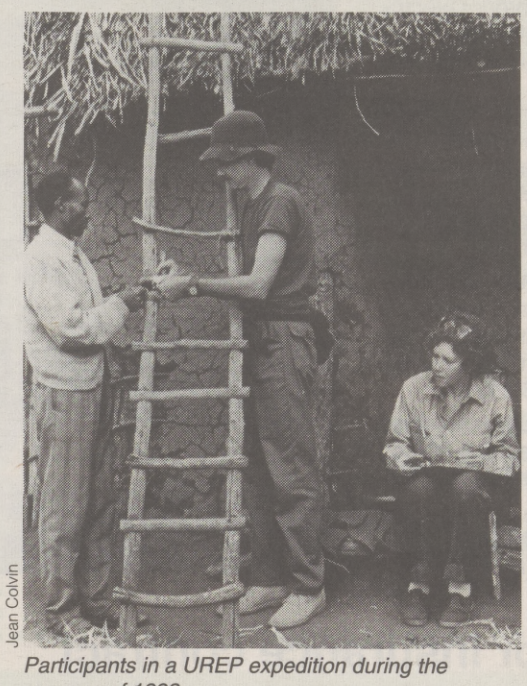
Women need the approval of their physician to have the mammogram, in addition to their doctor's full name, address (including room number & zip) and phone number to assure that results are mailed promptly. The procedure takes approximately 20 minutes and costs $65. To make an appointment call 476-2193 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.*

Listed below are dates when the van will be at UCSF locations. Call 476-2193 for a full schedule.

- Thurs., April 4: UCSF/Daly City, 333 Gellert Blvd.
- Fri., April 5: UCSF/Parnassus at Medical Center Way.

*Open to the public.

Upcoming Events



Jean Colvin

Participants in a UREP expedition during the summer of 1993

Learn about medical botany in French Polynesia

Learn about exotic plant species that are threatening the flora of French Polynesian islands and may lead to the loss of centuries of ethnobotanical knowledge at "Perils in Polynesia: Medical Botany and Alien Species." Timothy Krantz, a professor of geography at UC Berkeley, will make the presentation on Monday, March 11, from noon to 1 p.m., in Toland Hall.

The lecture is sponsored by the University Research Expeditions Program (UREP), which is celebrating 20 years of field research. For information about research expeditions taking place this summer, call 510-642-6586 or send an e-mail to urep@uclink.berkeley.edu.

Free program helps explain Medicare reform

The UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging is offering a free community education program, "The Medicare Puzzle: Making Sense of Medicare Reform, Managed Care and HMOs." The program will provide objective information for seniors to help them make informed decisions about their health care. Older health care consumers face with a bewildering number of choices in managed care and fee-for-service health plans and significant changes in Medicare coverage. The presentation will take place on Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Laurel Heights Conference Center. Space is limited, so call 750-5342 early for a reservation.

Gaucher patient advocacy meeting

The public is invited to attend an advocacy meeting for patients with Gaucher disease on Tuesday, April 2, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., in the Golden Gate Room of the Millberry Union.

Guest speaker is John Barranger, professor of the departments of Human Genetics, Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry and Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh, who will talk about "Toward Gene Therapy: A Future Approach to Gaucher Disease." Julie Kurnitz, a humor specialist and workshop coordinator, will speak about "Humor, Creativity & Chronic Illness."

Those who want to attend the meeting must RSVP by Friday, March 22. The event is sponsored by the UCSF Gaucher Disease Referral Center, the National Gaucher Foundation and the International Patient Advocacy Association. For more information, call the Center at 1-800-901-9997.

Plan your child's vacation at the Summer Care Fair

Plan your child's vacation early by meeting dozens of summer camp and play organizations at the UCSF Summer Care Fair on Wednesday, March 27.

The fair, which is sponsored by the Child & Elder Care Referral Service, will take place in the lobby of the Medical Sciences Building from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Jane Mahakian at 476-2692 for more information.

Celebrate the creator of Toland Hall murals

On Wednesday, April 10, Public Service Programs and Masha Zakheim will co-sponsor a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Bernard Baruch Zakheim, Masha's father and the artist who painted the murals in Toland Hall.

During the 1930's, Zakheim painted the ten fresco murals in Toland Hall depicting the history of medicine in California. The event will include a discussion of the murals and a reception in Toland Hall beginning at 7 p.m. The Chancellor's Committee on Art, Honors and Recognition co-sponsors the event. Call 285-0495 for more information.

How to prevent and deal with workplace violence

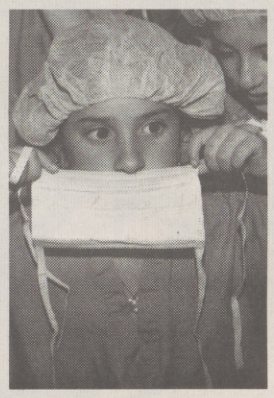
A one-day conference designed to help employers understand the dangers of workplace violence and how to provide a safe working environment will be held on Friday, April 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Sheraton Palace Hotel, 2 Montgomery St.

Practical approaches for setting up assessment and prevention programs will be offered, and legal issues regarding the hiring and firing of violent employees will be discussed. The registration fee for non-profit organizations is $145 until Friday, March 15 and $175 thereafter. Corporate-level registration costs $295 until March 15 and $325 after that date. Call 619-565-9921 to register.

Grand piano recital goes downtown

Millberry Arts & Performances co-sponsors "The Grand Celebration Goes Downtown" piano recital on Sunday, April 21 at 4 p.m. at R. Kassman Pianos, 131 Franklin St. The recital features UCSF pianists and other performers. A wine and cheese reception will follow. Tickets cost $3. Call 476-6761 for more information.

Take daughters to work on April 25



Tuesday, April 25 is "Take Our Daughters to Work Day," when daughters of women and men all across the country get an introduction to the world of employment.

Established by the Ms. Foundation in response to studies documenting the decreasing level of self-esteem among girls ages nine though 18, the event aims to expose girls to the diversity of job opportunities and encourage them to do well in school. Boys are welcome to participate, too.

Last year at UCSF, more than 200 girls aged 9 to 18 years of age participated in the event in 22 different programs.

For more information on how your child can participate in "Take Our Daughters to Work Day," contact Katherine Riordan in Public Affairs at 476-0729 or send her an e-mail at Katherine_Riordan@quickmail.ucsf.edu.

Forum for career women

The Department of Psychiatry's Program on Women is sponsoring its second annual symposium entitled, "Developmental Issues for Professional Women." The conference will take place on Saturday, April 27 at the Miyako Hotel, 1625 Post, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Topics relevant to career women that will be covered include parenting and career issues, dual career marriages, pregnancy and career, sexual harassment, negotiation skills, stress reduction, retirement and more. The conference is designed for physicians, attorneys, mental health specialists, academics, corporate managers and other professional women. General registration is $75 and trainee registration is $35. Pre-registration is required by calling 476-7080.

Facilities management gives campus construction update

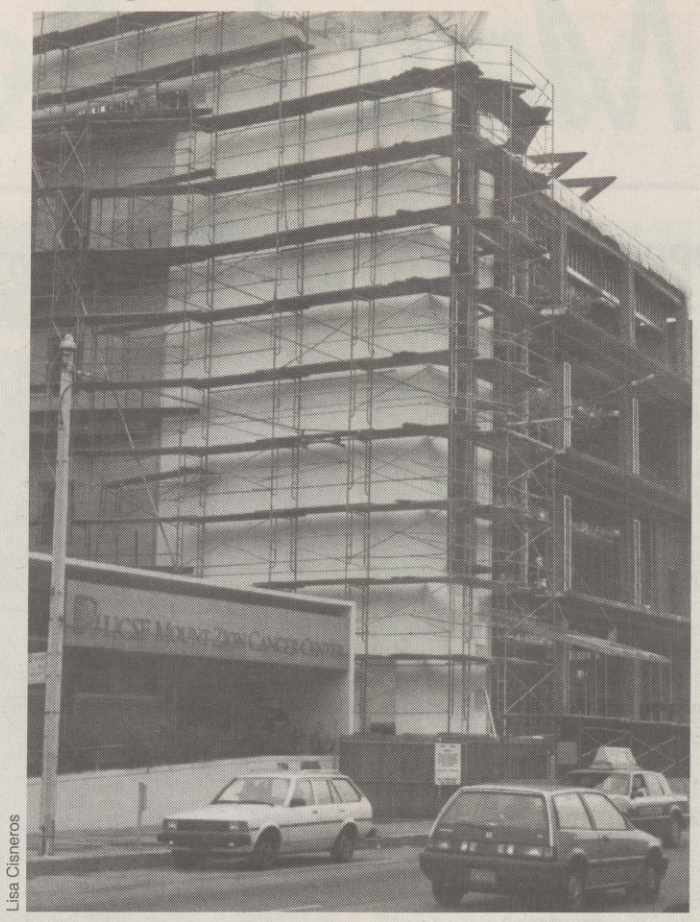
Work to install a new fire alarm and life safety system throughout all buildings on Parnassus, including the parking garage, is among the projects in progress at UCSF.

Here is a summary of other projects under way at Parnassus and other sites, according to Georgianne Meade, manager of major projects division of Facilities Management:

- Central Utilities Plant: The creation of the new cogeneration plant to produce electricity and steam will start on a large scale in late March when the foundation will be laid. After that, activities will include forming and placing the concrete walls, erecting structural steel, placing concrete floors, installing equipment and installing interior electrical and mechanical components. The plant is expected to be completed in early 1997. Once the plant is built, the existing one will be demolished.

  Continued cooperation is necessary from staff and visitors to the Medical Center to help protect patients by controlling dust from this project. Infection control asks that doors and windows facing the project site be kept closed. Questions and concerns about this project should be directed to the hotline number 502-7287.
- Health Sciences East: Asbestos abatement and construction is expected to start late March in a project to renovate a Cardiovascular Research Institute lab on the 13th floor. This will require work on the 12th floor ceilings and will involve about 60 percent of the 13th floor.
- Laurel Heights: Renovations are being made on the third floor east wing for use by the Institute of Health & Aging. Construction started last June and the Institute's staff are anticipating to move in by March 9.
- Medical Sciences Building: Renovation of the MSB lobby continues although the entrance was reopened to pedestrian traffic earlier this year. During the second phase of the project, elevator access will be closed on the first floor and rerouted to the second floor. The project is expected to be completed soon.
- Mission Center Building: The first-floor lobby will be refurbished to include a new food service area and new guard desk. Also, the second phase of a project to improve air delivery of the building's ventilation system is expected to begin in May. This phase will entail reconfiguring control zones, rebalancing air flows and improving perimeter heat controls. During the first phase of this project, controls and thermostats were repaired.
- Millberry Union: Space for Student Health Services and other units will be designed on the H level in a project that is expected to start soon.
- UCSF/Mount Zion: Construction of the 110,000-square foot facility to house researchers investigating various cancers is expected to be completed winter 1996.
- SFGH: A project to convert former hospital space on the west side of the second floor of Building 1 into a lab and office space for the Department of Surgery is expected to be completed in October.
- UC Hall: Seismic improvements of this project, which include strengthening the parapets at the roof and at the terrace on the first floor and repairing loose and cracked terra cotta at several locations on the building exterior, is expected to be completed in April.

  Facilities Management makes construction updates available to campus administrators through its "construction alerts." The next edition is due around April 1.



Lisa Cisneros

Construction of the four-story cancer research building at 2340 Sutter St., pictured left, began in September 1994.

UC posts 1996 rate for insurance contract

A contract rate of 6.14 percent for the Insurance Company Contract (ICC) Fund has been negotiated with Principal Mutual Life Insurance Company, according to UC Employee Benefits Plan Administration. The 1996 contract has staggered maturity dates culminating in December 2001.

Contributions invested in the ICC Fund during 1996 will be pooled with existing money in the Fund to produce a blended rate of return that reflects the average yield of all the contracts in force. Assuming that 1996 deposits follow anticipated contribution trends, the University Treasurer estimates that the Fund will produce a net yield of approximately 7.70 percent in 1996.

Principal Mutual Life Insurance Company ranks in the upper one percent of all US life insurance companies and is rated A++ by Best & Co.

Job counseling, planning available

All UCSF employees are entitled to become members of Alumnae Resources and to participate in its programs and counseling services at a reduced fee.

UCSF continued its membership in Alumnae Resources through the end of the fiscal year. Once membership is attained, employees may use Alumnae Resources' library and join job support groups at no charge. UCSF employees who are laid off in the time period of the University's membership are eligible for the discounted membership and services. Alumnae Resources offers career planning and job search assistance. Counselors are available to help with new career directions and advancement after layoff. A few of the courses offered are: self-assessment, writing resumes, interviewing techniques, taking charge of your finances and public speaking. Alumnae Resources is located at 120 Montgomery St., Suite 600, San Francisco. For more information, call 274-4747.

Nominate for top teaching award

Students and faculty are invited to submit nominations for the UCSF Academic Senate "Distinction in Teaching" Award.

Nominees will be judged on material taught and its relevance to students, versatility in teaching, organization of materials and the use of teaching aids, degree to which students are stimulated and outstanding mentorship of students and junior faculty.

A list of eligible candidates has been sent to departmental chairs. Submit all nomination letters to the nominee's department chair. The department must receive the nomination letters no later than Thursday, March 21.

For more information, call Maria da Luz in the Academic Senate Office at 476-1307.

New benefits rules for nonresidents

A new law will affect benefits paid to non-California residents, according to UC Benefits, which issued the following statement Feb. 28.

In January, President Clinton signed legislation prohibiting states from taxing retirement plan income paid to nonresidents. This legislation affects distributions from the University of California Retirement Plan, the Defined Contribution Plan and the Tax-Deferred 403(b) Plan that are paid to non-California residents.

University of California Retirement System policy does not require that California state income tax be withheld from distributions paid to nonresidents. Plan participants who reside outside of California should contact their local taxing authority for details on how the new rules will apply.

The California Franchise Tax Board is considering the effect of this legislation on California withholding regulations and is expected to issue guidelines on the implementation of the law. UC Benefits will keep employees informed as additional information becomes available.

Lisa Cisneros

Digging into dessert

Longtime EMPACT! volunteer, "Big Al" Kerr, right, digs into dessert with Tina Quiros, a library assistant, at the recent ice cream social to show appreciation to volunteers of EMPACT!, UCSF's employee activities program.

Medical Call Board

Women with breast cancer

The School of Nursing and Department of Hematology at UCSF are looking for mid-life women ages 35 to 50 with breast cancer who are initiating a course of adjuvent chemotherapy. The focus of this study is on the menstrual cycle characteristics and experiences of young mid-life women. This research involves written questionnaires and a blood test.

Participants must have had histologically confirmed breast cancer, be able to read, write and understand English and be beginning adjuvant chemotherapy. Studies will take place at a location convenient for the participant. For more information, call Patricia Larson at 476-1942.

Bladder control

Women are needed for a UCSF study on bladder control problems such as frequent urination or "leakage." The UCSF Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences is looking for women of color to participate. The study will focus on how bladder problems affect daily life, how this condition impacts on activities, and what women would consider successful treatment. All information is confidential, and participants will receive a $45 compensation fee. For more information, call Beth Brown at 885-7547.

Type II diabetes

The UCSF Department of Family and Community Medicine is seeking volunteers to participate in a study of how individuals with Type II diabetes and their spouses or partners manage care of the disease at home.

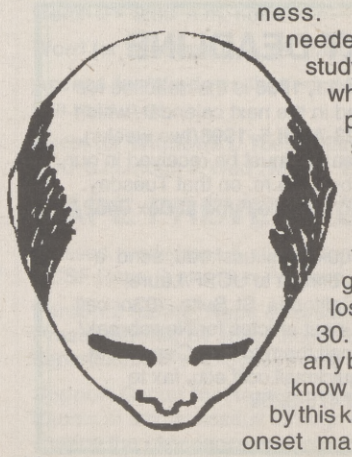
Researchers will ask couples about their beliefs regarding the cause, treatment and outcome of diabetes, as well as about their personal health and stress.

Volunteers will also share how their family manages self-care behaviors related to diabetes care. Latino and non-Hispanic white individuals with adult-onset—or Type II—diabetes who have lived with a spouse or partner for at least three years may be eligible for the study. Participants must be between 25 and 60 years of age, have no other medical complications, and have had a diagnosis of adult-onset diabetes for more than one year and less than nine years. Volunteers will be compensated $100 for their participation.

The study is a collaborative project among UCSF, the California Pacific Medical Group and San Francisco Kaiser Permanente. For more information, call the San Francisco Family Diabetes Project at 476-1925.

Balding men

The UCSF Hair Research Center is searching for the gene causing male pattern baldness. Subjects needed for the study are men who have the pattern shown in the picture and who attained this degree of hair loss by age 30. If you or anybody you know is affected by this kind of early onset male pattern baldness, please call researchers Monday through Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 476-2572 or 476-3638.



Fun Zone

Poets share poetry on Parnassus March 15

Poets on Parnassus will share poetry on Friday, March 15 at 4:30 p.m. in HSW 301. The event will feature guest poet Brenda Hillman. Founded in 1992, Poets on Parnassus holds quarterly poetry readings featuring faculty, student, staff and guest poets.

Summer day camps to begin registration

Registration begins Monday, April 1, for UCSF Summer Day Camps for children of the campus community. Registration for the public at large begins April 2.

The program is open to children ages six through 14. Traveling camps take children to exciting places around the Bay Area for guided explorations, hands-on tours and fun and games. The program runs in two-week sessions on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from June 17 through August 30. Children travel by bus to locations including Angel Island and the Discovery Museum, and participate in activities such as rock climbing, nature walking and creating arts and crafts. For more information or to receive a free brochure about the summer day camps, call Mary McDonald at 476-1469.

Medsounds Continued

Auxiliary to hold Easter egg hunt, shopping spree on Saturday, April 6

Karen Preuss

Participants in last year's Easter egg hunt enjoyed some four-legged entertainment.

The Hospitals Auxiliary of the UCSF Medical Center and FAO Schwarz will present the third annual Easter Egg Hunt and Shopping Spree on Saturday, April 6.

Last year about 225 children searched for treats in the popular fundraiser that garnered some $18,000 to pay for patient amenities.

This year's event will be from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the toy shop located at 48 Stockton St. at O'Farrell Street in San Francisco.

Admission to the event is $25 per child and adults are free. The Auxiliary again will help pediatric patients to participate in the event. Prizes will be awarded to the children who find golden eggs and to winners of the raffle drawing.

Ten percent of the sales during the shopping spree will be donated to the Auxiliary to benefit hospitalized children and adults. To register for the event, cut out the adjacent reservation form and send it to the Auxillary. For more information, call Teru Hirano at 476-4906.

FAO Schwarz/UCSF Benefit

Please make_____ reservations for the
Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Shopping Spree on April 6
at $25 per child.

I/We will not attend, but wish to support the
UCSF Hospitals Auxiliary or sponsor a child with the enclosed
tax-deductible contribution of $ _____ .

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Daytime Phone _____

For more information, please call the Auxiliary at 476-4906.
Reservations should be received by Monday, April 1, 1996
Make checks payable to UCSF Hospitals Auxiliary and send to 505 Parnassus Ave., Box 0208, San Francisco, CA 94143-0208.

Apply now for college scholarship

The Medical Center is offering the Jacqueline W. Kuhn Scholarship to a deserving student to help defray educational and living expenses incurred while away at college.

The purpose of the $1,000 scholarship is to recognize and reward a dependent of a Medical Center employee who has demonstrated excellence in academic accomplishment as well as service to the community through volunteer work and extracurricular activities.

Application forms must be returned to the Jacqueline W. Kuhn Scholarship Fund Committee, care of Kathy Balestreri, Box 0296 no later than Tuesday, April 30.

Applicants must be the dependent of a staff member who has been employed by the Medical Center for at least three years. Applicants also must have been accepted to or be enrolled at least half-time at a campus of the University of California or a California State University. The awardee will be selected by a panel of Medical Center staff. For an application, call Joan Guerra at 476-2230.

Organs *(from page 8)*

have been on the waiting list. In the case of kidneys, no points are assigned for medical condition because kidney dialysis is available.

Once an organ is available, additional points are assigned based on how closely the weight, blood type and immune markers of the donor and recipient match. Whoever has the best match and highest priority status in the region will be offered the organ first. For example, the girl received top priority in the Bay Area because liver function can deteriorate in a very short time and she was the only Status 1 in her blood group, according to Carolyn Berry, who acts as a liaison between donors and recipients at the California Donor Transplant Network.

While young children sometimes get extra points, celebrities do not. When the late great baseball player Mickey Mantle received a liver transplant, many thought his claim to fame helped him get a replacement faster.

"That's one of the misconceptions," Berry says. "When someone like Mickey Mantle gets transplanted quickly, people say, 'Oh, he jumped to the top.' But when someone is Status 1, their waiting time is usually a matter of a day or two. It's not weeks or months like other people who aren't quite as sick.

Indeed, UNOS found that the organ allocation in Mantle's case was administered properly and according to established policy. The case also revived debate on whether those who abuse their bodies should be entitled to new organs.

Many of these ethical dilemmas would be irrelevant if transplantable organs were not so scarce. Thousands of potentially life-saving organs go unused each year because the potential donor's wishes are unclear.

Roberts, who serves as national chair of the liver committee and is a member of the organ procurement committee of UNOS, noted that the liver in the girl's case saved the lives of two patients and other organs from the same donor saved the lives of three others — a heart transplant recipient, a kidney-pancreas recipient, and a kidney recipient.

He urges the public to recognize the generosity of the donor's family and asked others to discuss the issue of organ donation with their loved ones before they are confronted with the question in a time of grief. "The donor family is this case made a decision in a time of great loss. Five lives were saved through that family's action," Roberts says.

Deepinder Brar is a graduate journalism student at UC Berkeley.

Liver *(from page 8)*

The girl who underwent the procedure took anti-rejection drugs to protect the donated organ while her original organ had a chance to recover.

Emond and John P. Roberts, associate director of the UCSF Liver Transplant Service, planned and performed the auxiliary transplant together.

Emond also pioneered a surgical technique known as a living-related liver transplant, in which an adult — normally a parent or other close relative — donates a portion of his or her liver to be transplanted in a child. The procedure eliminates the need for the child to wait for a cadaver donor. (See story on organ donation on page 8.)

Both living-related liver transplants and auxilary transplants are possible because of the liver's unique ability to regenerate. The portion of a donor's liver transplanted into the recipient is able to function and grow to the normal size, and a living-donor's liver also will grow to a normal size relatively quickly, Emond said.

No other organ in the body has this ability to grow or reduce in size as needed.

The other three members of the family who also suffered liver damage as a result of eating toxic mushrooms gathered in an East Bay park recovered rapidly and didn't require liver transplants.

Sperm *(from page 1)*

Copenhagen analyzed the sperm count of almost 14,000 men from 61 prior published studies and found a drop of 42 percent since 1940. Subsequent articles, however, criticized the authors for using improper assessment techniques.

Another study published in 1995 looked at the sperm count of 1,350 healthy, fertile volunteers who donated to one sperm bank in France over 20 years. It found an average decline from 89 million per milliliter in 1973 to 60 million in 1992, a 38 percent drop. (A normal, healthy male averages 100 million sperm per milliliter; three milliliters is the average ejaculation.)

Still other studies showed increased sperm counts in industrialized cities or no changes at all.

Studies of sperm banks in New York and Los Angeles have not demonstrated a decrease in sperm quality over time.

Turek questions the popular assumptions that infertility is on the rise. "Even men who undergo vasectomies (because of fertility) do not have huge sperm counts," he explains. "This implies that men may be potentially becoming more fertile rather than less fertile."

Because all the studies are so contradictory, "their significance is questionable," says Turek.

Xenoestrogen theory

Castleman believes the statistics tell a different story. "There is provocative, if not convincing, evidence that we're on the verge of a sperm count crisis." And while he is not absolutely convinced that human reproduction is "going down" since the threshold for infertility is between 5 and 20 million sperm per milliliter, he does believe that estrogenic chemicals, perhaps in combination with the biochemical effects of artificial light (fewer gonadotropins), are hitting men below the belt.

Human sperm

Moreover, like the canary in the mineshaft, the decline in human sperm count is interpreted by Castleman as one part of a looming environmental disaster that includes the accelerating feminization and disappearance of wildlife in species ranging from frogs to gulls, and an epidemic of breast cancer in women.

The link, he asserts, is xenoestrogens, chemicals that look nothing like estrogen, the female sex hormone, but which bind to estrogen receptors in cells and mimic its function. Estrogen stimulates the growth of breast tumors. Low-level exposure to xenoestrogens kills sperm. Some widely used xenoestrogens are DDT, which is banned in the US, other pesticides, industrial pollutants, PCBs and nonylphenol, which is used in plastics.

Turek and others are skeptical of the xenoestrogen theory since plant estrogens and those in natural pesticides are far more toxic than the tiny amounts from man-made chemicals — and humans have been exposed to them much longer. He says the xenoestrogen theory is largely circumstantial evidence, which is "generally not accepted as good science or good law."

"It makes for great global arguments, but tends to neglect details," Turek says. "For example, if estrogens are to blame, why am I not seeing measurable chemical imbalances in my patients that present infertility?

I really believe that life stress, also understudied as an influence on infertility, is a far more common and real factor in any demonstrated fall in sperm quality. Couples are waiting longer to have children and, surely with women and possibly with men, this may be the most instrumental fact that influences the ability to conceive."

Castleman is not so sure. "These chemicals are demolishing wildlife...humans just haven't felt it yet."

Marie Sanchez is a graduate journalism student at UC Berkeley.

Volume 11, Number 5 March 9-22, 1996

Page 1 . . . Researchers find herpes role in Kaposi's sarcoma

Page 1 . . . Infertile mice treated with leptin produce healthy pups

Page 1 . . . Researchers debate conflicting sperm count studies

UCSF Medsounds

Medical Center gets good review from Joint Commission

The Medical Center and Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute have been awarded the maximum three-year accreditation after receiving an outstanding review from a team of national and state surveyors.

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and the California Medical Association, which set standards for high-quality health care and regularly check hospitals for compliance to them, awarded UCSF the accreditation to all of its services.

The team of surveyors visited the Medical Center on Parnassus and LPPI last November to evaluate some 700 standards in both inpatient and ambulatory care areas. After a four-day inspection, the surveyors commended UCSF's employees for their cooperation. Charles H. Blair, executive vice president of the Joint Commission's Division of Accreditation Operations, congratulated UCSF for its accreditation in a Jan. 25 letter.

Director Bill Kerr says the excellent results reflect the efforts of Medical Center managers and staff. "We are most appreciative of the time and effort contributed by all of you in preparing for last November's survey," he says. "We could not have achieved this goal without your dedication and support."

Acknowledging the need to develop accurate and useful ways to evaluate health care in a time when the industry is addressing both quality and cost issues, the Joint Commission has begun to break from the norm. While past reviews focused more on looking at department-specific standards and records, today surveyors make it a priority to talk with health care providers and patients to assess an institution's entire continuum of care.

During this last review, surveyors randomly interviewed staff to see what is happening on the front lines and to check for effective communication and coordination throughout the clinical enterprise, explains Eunice Little, director of Quality Services.

"We appreciate each person's contribution to this effort," says Little, adding that Cindy Lima, Lois McGrath, Jolene Carnagey, Lois Kaye and Beth Maloney deserve extra recognition for their leadership to help prepare staff for specific parts of the review.

The Joint Commission's report also contains recommendations to assist Medical Center and LPPI as they continue to achieve their goals.

Nominations due for Pearl Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the UCSF/Mount Zion Milton and Helen Pearl Award for Outstanding Service.

The purpose of the award is to recognize and reward an employee providing service to the UCSF/Mount Zion campus who has consistently performed at an extraordinary level. The awardee must have demonstrated exceptional willingness to render additional service of consequence to others, such as patients and co-workers.

Established in 1993 to honor the late Milton J. Pearl, a longtime surgeon at Mount Zion, the award will be given to a deserving employee at the UCSF Founders Day awards ceremony on Friday, April 19. The awardee will receive a certificate and a $1,000 prize funded by the Pearl family.

Final nominations are due by noon Friday, March 22.

To be eligible for the award, employees must meet several requirements which are specified on the nomination forms. Please submit nomination forms to Jeanne Dean, Selection Committee chair, Medical Staff Administration, Box 1639, room C 136.

Karen Preuss

Patient Paul Hogan, 7, of Ripon, receives a book as a goodwill gift at UCSF Medical Center from Mary Cullen, left, pediatric nurse, and Lois Epstein, a pediatrician.

Goodwill project promotes reading among pediatric patients

All children who have been hospitalized at the UCSF Children's Medical Center now receive a book as a goodwill gift on the day they are discharged in an effort to encourage reading.

The book project is sponsored by the UCSF Pediatric Council, which supports the UCSF Department of Pediatrics in its efforts to promote the health and welfare of children through research, education, and patient care. In an arrangement with Book Passage, a store in Corte Madera, books are purchased at a discount and then gift wrapped by store volunteers.

The project began last fall with $5,000 in private donations and almost 1,000 age-appropriate books have been presented to children since then.

Girl recovers after rare liver transplant at UCSF

By BILL GORDON

A 13-year-old girl who suffered severe liver damage after eating poisonous mushrooms went home two weeks after undergoing an innovative liver transplant procedure at UCSF Medical Center.

The UCSF transplant team used an emerging surgical technique to provide the girl with a portion of a donor's organ that sustained her life long enough to give her own damaged organ a chance to heal and regenerate. The team then removed the donated piece when it became apparent that the girl's own liver was healing itself.

This was the first time the technique, known as an "auxiliary transplant," has been performed at UCSF with the expectation that the damaged liver would repair itself. Only one other transplant center in the US has performed a similar procedure.

"We thank you all not only for your professional skills and dedication, but also for your gentleness and kindness," the girl's father, Sam Chang, wrote to UCSF. "I truly believe we have had the best medical care at UC Medical Center."

The girl received the left lobe of the unidentifed donor's liver on Feb. 8, and another UCSF transplant patient received the larger portion of the donor's organ in a standard liver transplant procedure.

In an auxiliary transplant, the donor organ is placed alongside a patient's damaged organ, giving patients the chance of living without the need to take anti-rejection drugs for the rest of their lives. If enough healthy cells remain in the damaged liver, the organ is able to regenerate and supplant the donor organ over a period of several months, explained Jean Emond, surgical director of the pediatric liver transplant program at UCSF.

If the damaged organ proves unable to heal, the donor organ will grow and supplant the damaged liver. "The livers are placed side by side in competition for blood flow," Edmond explained. "The healthier organ eventually will dominate."

The technique has been attempted more frequently in Europe, but Emond estimated that fewer than 20 of the procedures have been performed at hospitals there. Studies of those procedures found that in about 40 percent of the cases the recipient's damaged liver recovered and took over for the donated liver, Emond said.

(See **LIVER** *on page 7)*

Organ demand far exceeds supply

By DEEPINDER BRAR

A day after doctors at UCSF Medical Center assigned her a Status 1 priority to get a liver, the girl who ate deadly mushrooms was saved by a transplant.

She shot to the top of the list of about 650 people in the Bay Area waiting for a liver because her medical condition was considered a high priority based on a point system used by hospitals to allocate organs. The transplanted partial liver helped the girl survive until her own liver recovered.

John P. Roberts, associate director of the Liver Transplant Service at UCSF, says the girl is among the fortunate. "She could have died waiting," he says. "About 10 percent of the people who go on the waiting list at any status die prior to transplant and I would guess that about a quarter of the patients who go on the highest status die without a transplant."

The reason people die or have to wait weeks, months, even years is that there simply are not enough donated organs available. More than 40,000 people are on the national waiting list with more than 3,000 in the Bay Area waiting for various organs, more than two-thirds for kidneys.

With the demand for organs far greater than the supply, Congress established a way to coordinate organ allocation across the country. The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) is a non-profit organization under contract to the US Department of Health and Human Services to maintain the national registry.

Doctors at each hospital decide when to list patients on the national registry and what priority to assign them, following guidelines established by UNOS for each organ. A number of points are assigned to patients depending on which organs are needed, how severe their condition is and how long they

(See **ORGANS** *on page 7)*

Advice for dealing with the press

In light of recent publicity about the family treated at UCSF for mushroom poisoning, the Medical Center would like to remind staff to refer print and broadcast reporters and photographers to the UCSF News Services Office.

News Services, a division of the Public Affairs Department, is the source to turn to when reporters call to request an interview or to take pictures on campus or at the Medical Center. News Services coordinates all campus publicity and helps reporters get the information accurately and quickly while ensuring appropriate patient consent and confidentiality.

The News Service staff can help set up interviews and photo shoots when media make inquiries about patients, clinical findings, research and teaching as well as about individual faculty, students and staff.

An example of how to handle a media call is to say, "Our News Department will be happy to work with you on this. You can call them directly at 476-2557 or give us your name and number and they will call you back as soon as possible."

The phone number above is covered 24 hours a day, weekends and holidays. After regular business hours, staff can reach the news staff person who is "on-call" and available to help.